

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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CAB - MR. BURCH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, UR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ALASKA AIRLINES CHARTERS

REF: MOSCOW 3764

1. ALASKA AIRLINES REPORTS APRIL 12 IT SENDING CABLE TO SOVIETS (MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION, WITH COPIES TO IN-TOURIST AND AEROFLOT) STATING THAT, IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME BEFORE FIRST FLIGHT AND NEED FOR ALASKA AND THE INVOLVED TRAVELERS TO KNOW BEFORE LAST MINUTE WHETHER AND HOW THE PROGRAM WILL WORK, ALASKA WOULD LIKE SOVIETS TO RECONSIDER INSISTENCE ON 50-50 SPLIT. IF NEGATIVE OR NO RESPONSE RECEIVED BY APRIL 16, ALASKA PLANS CANCEL PROGRAM FOR THIS YEAR. LASTLY, CABLE WILL REPORTEDLY SUGGEST THAT, IN ANY EVENT, ALASKA AND AEROFLOT GET TOGETHER ON TIMELY BASIS TO TRY WORK OUT JOINT PROGRAM FOR 1974 SEASON, AND THAT ALASKA " WILL SUPPORT AEROFLOT BEFORE THE USG IN ITS APPLICATION FOR THE REQUISITE PERMISSION" (FOR SUCH 1974 CHARTERS).

2. IN VIEW PRECEDING, FORMAL EMBASSY RESPONSE TO MFA NOTE OF APRIL 4 PERHAPS NOT REQUIRED, UNLESS IT WOULD BE USEFUL
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TO WAIT UNTIL WE ARE SURE ALASKA ACTUALLY CANCELS PROGRAM
AND THEN TO REPLY MERELY THAT WE UNDERSTAND ISSUE HAS BE-
COME ACADEMIC FOR 1973 SEASON. EM0 ASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED.

3. FYI: WHILE ALASKA ADMITS IT DID AGREE WITH AEROFLOT

SOME TIME AGO THAT IT WOULD SPIN OFF THE THREE RETURN LEGS
TO AEROFLOT, IT DOES HAVE A LEGITIMATE TIME PROBLEM AT
THIS POINT. IN RELATION LIKELY USG ACTION ON ANY AEROFLOT
FILING FOR APPROVAL KHABAROVSK- ANCHORAGE CHARTERS, EMBASSY
IS AWARE THAT SUCH SO- CALLED OFF ROUTE CHARTERS NOT PRO-
VIDED FOR IN AEROFLOT'S FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT AND CAB
CANNOT ALLOW SUCH CHARTERS EXCEPT BY AMENDING PERMIT.
(SEPTEMBER 1972 FLIGHT TO CHICAGO FOR MACHINE TOOL SHOW
WAS CONSIDERED A " SPECIAL" FLIGHT RATHER THAN A " CHARTER")
THIS CAN BE LENGTHY PROCESS AND, DESPITE ALASKA'S PROMISED
SUPPORT (PARA ONE ABOVE), THERE NO CERTAINTY THAT OUTCOME
WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO AEROFLOT AND ALASKA. THIS TYPE
OF ISSUE IS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE OF THOSE WHICH WE HAD
IN MIND TRYING TO RESOLVE IN OUR PROPOSAL THAT WE AND THE
SOVIETS ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT SOME TYPE OF UMBRELLA AGREE-
MENT ON CHARTERS (MOSCOW 3306, PARA ONE). ON APPROPRIATE
OCCASIONS THIS POINT COULD BE MADE TO SOVIETS IN HOPES
CONVINCING THEM THAT WE DID NOT VIEW OUR PROPOSAL AS
SOLELY AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE UNILATERAL PERMISSION FOR UN-
LIMITED US CHARTERS TO THE USSR. END FYI. ROGERS

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